Starting programme on AIR and Doordarshan Srinagar with 'Namaste' and 'Adab' instead to start with 'Slam Walekum' forced by terrorists

1928. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorists have forced AIR as well as Doordarshan Srinagar to give up earlier practice of starting programme with 'Namaste' and 'Adab' and instead to start with 'Slam Walekum'; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to provide protection to the staff and restore old practice of starting programme ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Both All India Radio and Doordarshan have not deviated from the past practice regarding announcements at the beginning of transmission and at the end of transmission. However, some casual Announcers did use the words "Salam Walekum"under pressure of militants for a short period before the start of the news. This practice has, however, been discontinued. The State Government has taken appropriate steps to provide security of employees of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

Official meetings of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of Foreign nations

1929. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that official meetings of the Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of foreign nations, with the Members of the Indian Cabinet and *Vice-versa*, are channelised through his Ministry as a rule; and

(b) whether there has been any instances of breach of the said rule by any member of the present Cabinet; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) According to normal protocol practice, Heads of Mission of foreign countries accredited to India are required to channelise such requests through my Ministry where substantive discussions of policy are involved; while this is not required where discussions of a technical or routine nature are involved.

(b) No instance of breach of this normal protocol practice has come to our notice.

Enforcement of penalty on vehicle owners under Motor Vehicles Act

1930. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to enforce Rule 115(2) of the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 which prescribes penalty on vehicles with emission over prescribed limits;

(b) whether vehicle owners have represented to Government that it will lead to their harassment at the hands of enforcement agencies;

(c) whether State Governments have brought to notice of Government that such enforcement will be of little help in checking pollution on roads because of lack of adequate equipment; and